

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05586 091729Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 000671

R 091722Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0664
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T LONDON 05586

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MPOL. UK, UX
SUBJECT: US/UK DISCUSSIONS OF MASIRAH ISLAND

REF: STATE 84477

1. EMBOFF SAW FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WEIR AFTER-
NOON APRIL 9 TO MAKE SURE HE HAD FULL VERSION OF /US/UK
DISCUSSION OF APRIL 7 ON MASIRAH. EMBOFF SOUGHT UNSUC-
CESSFULLY TO PRY OUT OF WEIR EXACTLY HOW MUCH LONGER
BRITISH COULD GIVE USS BEFORE INFORMING SULTAN OF DECISION
TO WITHDRAW RAF. /USS REQUEST TO DEFER DATE OF INFORMING
SULTAN WOULD HAVE TO BE RUN THROUGH NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY
CROSLAND TO CABINET LEVEL.

2. WEIR STRESSED THAT DECISION TO WITHDRAW WAS DICTATED
NOT MERELY BY FINANCIAL STRINGENCY. WITH THIS DIS-
MANTLING OF ITS CHAIN OF BASES TO SINGAPORE, RAF DOES NOT
WISH TO KEEP ITS PERSONNEL IN AN EXCESSIVE HARDSHIP POST
SUCH AS MASIRAH FOR NO APPARENT USEFUL PURPOSE.

3. HMG ALSO HAS A LEGAL PROBLEM ON ITS HANDS SINCE IT HA
A 99-YEAR LEASE ON THE BASE AREA AND HAS NO ADEQUATE PRO-
VISION IN THE LEASE FOR UNILATERAL ABROGATION. BRITISH
AFRAID THAT WHEN THEY DO ABROGATE, THE SULTAN MAY DEMAND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 05586 091729Z

COMPENSATION. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BRITISH WISH TO

GIVE THE SULTAN AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL AS POSSIBLE. HENCE, HMG WOULD STILL LIKE TO ADHERE TO MID-APRIL TIMING OF NOTIFICATION.

4. IN ANY CASE, WEIR SAID, BRITISH ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT, FOLLOWING THE PATTERN OF BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM BAHREIN BASE, US SHOULD NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH SULTAN OVER ANY FUTURE US USE OF MASIRAH.

5. WEIR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT BBC FACILITIES AS DISTINCT FROM RAF FACILITIES WOULD REMAIN IN MASIRAH, AND THAT OMANI GOVERNMENT HAS SOME PLANS TO USE AIRFIELD AS A FLYING SCHOOL.

ARMSTRONG

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLICIES, MASIRAH, MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON05586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760136-0334
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760479/aaaacowr.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 84477
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/UK DISCUSSIONS OF MASIRAH ISLAND
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MPOL, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006